

Applicant: PER LOTHE  
Attorney Docket No.: 1935-00177

**In the Specification:**

Please add the following heading and paragraph at page 1, between the title and the first line of text as follows:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the U.S. national stage application of International Application PCT/ NO2004/000227, filed July 22, 2004, which International Application was published on February 3, 2005, as International Publication No. WO 2005/009907 A1 in the English language. The International Application claims priority of Norwegian Patent Application 20033331, filed July 24, 2003.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--**

Please add the following heading at page 2, between lines 19 and 20, as follows:

**--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--**

Please add the following heading at page 5, between lines 8 and 9, as follows:

**--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--**

Please add the following heading at page 5, between lines 19 and 20, as follows:

**--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--**

Please add the enclosed "Abstract of the Disclosure" as new page 10 to the specification.

**--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and device are provided for reducing the oxygen content of seawater, where the seawater is introduced into the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12), particularly for treatment of ballast water in a ballast tank (4) of a ship (1). A seawater

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intake pipe (6) runs from the outside of the ship to a ballast pump (8) that is designed to pump the water on through a pump pipe (10) and up to the upper part of the downcomer. The downcomer extends mainly vertically down to the ballast compartment of the ship, where the ballast water can be distributed between several ballast compartments by means of distribution headers and valves. One aim of the invention is to neutralize organisms in the ballast water.--